

Tom & Bertha Manos

(pause; inaudible mumbling)

(break in audio)

Q: (inaudible)

\_\_: (inaudible)

Q: All right. Now your mother and father both came from  
[Agion]?

F: [That's right, yes. My father] (inaudible)

Q: (inaudible)

\_\_: (inaudible)

F: Agion. That's when -- I was born in Agion.

Q: Oh, you were born in Agion. Oh, so you came -- you weren't  
born here in the United States --

F: No.

Q: -- you were born in Agion?

F: [Uh-huh].

Q: Oh! All right. And --

\_\_: (inaudible) let me just stop and make sure we recorded it  
right, okay?

(break in audio)

\_\_: (inaudible)

Q: What year did they come to the United States?

F: My father came here in 1912.

Q: 1912? Oh.

F: And (inaudible) he came back to (inaudible)

Q: Right.

F: And he came and, [you know, after the war in Germany], he took (inaudible) to America again.

Q: And when was that? In --

F: In 1914.

Q: All right.

F: And (inaudible) [back to] Greece [in 1917, my father sent us to -- there to go] -- come here. But during, you know, war was on.

Q: And you couldn't come.

F: (inaudible) [1920].

Q: [Right].

F: So [what happened was] (inaudible) [we were in Greece and] (inaudible) [told us that there was] (inaudible) and we left to come to America. And we left [Bakvas] and we went to [Italy]. And we stayed there because we could (inaudible) and then we [couldn't agree on a time that] (inaudible)

Q: Oh, all right, fine. Yes, okay.

F: So (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: In Italy?

F: In Italy. And (inaudible) 1917, we went to Gibraltar, we stayed there about two weeks or so and [a bunch of ships] got together to cross the Atlantic (inaudible) ships.

Q: So that they would be safe.

F: Safe.

Q: From the submarines, all right.

F: (inaudible) [ship] --

Q: Convoy.

F: A convoy. And [then we -- in the] third ship or fourth ship (inaudible)

Q: All right.

F: And so it was protection from the (inaudible) ships.

Q: You know the name of the ship that you --

F: No.

Q: No.

F: No.

Q: All right. Where did you land when you -- how long did it take you to come across?

F: Come across (inaudible)

Q: From Gibraltar.

F: Oh, from Gibraltar, it was about 27 days. 27 days. So we came over, and we [didn't have a], you know, [private single]. So we wound up in Boston.

Q: Oh, was that the first stop? Is that where your father was? In Boston?

F: Well, he was outside of Boston. [Falmouth], Massachusetts. [Do you know the area]? You know [there's a lot of] Massachusetts.

Q: Okay.

F: [So] (inaudible) [we moved to Falmouth], Massachusetts. [That's outside] (inaudible)

Q: And how long did you live there?

F: Massachusetts for -- I lived there for -- four or five years at least. (inaudible) And (inaudible) I moved to (inaudible) that's right, that's right (long inaudible)

Q: What kind of business, [that] --

F: The restaurants.

Q: Oh, the restaurants, all right (inaudible)

F: Right. It was right after (inaudible)

Q: [Oh good] --

F: (inaudible)

Q: What year did you -- did he come to Newark -- did all of you come to Newark? Do you remember?

F: To Newark?

Q: What year did he open the business in Passaic and Newark?

F: That was in 1947. [Oh, I don't remember] -- couldn't have been '47, 'cause we got married in '38. We were already in Newark and what have you. It couldn't be --

Q: Maybe in the '30s?

F: It must have been, yeah. [I don't know when it was] -- in the late '20s.

Q: Late '20s. All right, fine.

F: Do you remember the name of the restaurant? (inaudible) do you remember the names of those restaurants? Do you remember, Bertha?

F: No. (overlapping dialogue, inaudible) [husband must remember] (inaudible) [father wasn't] (inaudible) [remember? What's wrong with the] (inaudible) [somebody asked for the name] and my father (inaudible) [Skourous. I said that they named it -- well anyhow] --

Q: We'll come back to that. (laughter) Yeah, no --

F: [I can't remember].

Q: -- I know. So you arrived in Massachusetts, you lived there for about five years.

F: Yeah.

Q: And then you came to Patterson. And when did you move to Newark? Or did you move to Newark? Yes.

F: Yeah. [Must have] (inaudible) 1929 or so.

Q: (inaudible) All right, now was that 1929?

F: '29 --

Q: Or about that time, all right. And you were -- why did your family come to the United States, Tom?

M: Why?

Q: Why'd your father come -- first come to the United States?

M: Well, at first [he] came here alone (inaudible) he came here to --

Q: [To work]? (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

M: Well, and he (inaudible) [and the war broke out] (inaudible) [the rest of the war] (inaudible) came back --

Q: Came back here.

M: -- back to America.

Q: And then he brought the rest of the family.

M: [Yeah, and so] -- 1917, [we came here for] (inaudible) [and then we could come to] America.

Q: Right. All right.

M: The rest of the family.

Q: Now --

M: (inaudible) [two months to get there].

Q: Right, because of the war and the danger with submarines and getting a convoy.

M: Yeah.

Q: Did you go to school in the United States? Did you go to school in Newark?

M: I went to school [in about three years].

Q: In Massachusetts? Or in Patterson?

M: Patterson (inaudible) Patterson.

Q: How old were you when you came to the United States? How old were you?

M: I was about nine or so.

Q: About nine. And you went to school in Patterson.

M: Yeah.

Q: Okay. To what Greek-American organizations did you -- well, you know, what I'm going to go -- come back to that later.

So you had (inaudible) and [he had] restaurants in Newark.

Before that, in Massachusetts, he had a [pool hall] and --

M: Pool parlor.

Q: Pool parlor.

M: Pool parlor and -- yeah.

F: And a barbershop.

Q: Right a barbershop, all right. And then he opened a restaurant in Passaic and in Newark.

M: In Newark.

Q: All right. What did you do? Did you go into the restaurant business with your father once you finished --

M: I -- yeah, I was there helping out with the -- whatever was necessary, yeah.

Q: What did your mother do?

F: (inaudible) [had babies].

M: My mother had thirteen babies.

Q: Thirteen children. God bless her! (laughter) [There isn't] much more you can do, right? Thirteen children!

F: [Well, actually] (inaudible) two more (inaudible)



Q: All together fifteen kids? (overlapping dialogue, inaudible) listen, that was something. When -- where did you live in Newark?

M: Newark (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

F: We lived on [South Holland Drive].

Q: South Holland Drive, all right.

F: (inaudible)

M: (inaudible) [West Market].

Q: We -- meaning the two of you moved to West --

M: No --

Q: No, the family moved to West Market Street.

M: One time I was [working in Brooklyn] and (inaudible) so I went over to help him out --

F: (inaudible) [what was it? I didn't get that].

Q: The old St. Nicholas Church, maybe?

F: Yeah. [You said your parents moved -- you were working in Brooklyn]?

M: Yeah.

F: And you were living -- your parents were living next to St. Nicholas?

M: [On the side, yeah].

F: Not [Lester Street]? (inaudible) yeah?

M: Yeah.

Q: Maybe the first St. Nicholas, the first church? No?

M: [Yeah, yeah].

Q: Yeah.

F: [You mean the Lester Street] St. Nicholas Church?  
(inaudible)

M: (inaudible)

F: (inaudible)

M: (inaudible) [oh yeah. And I came over] from Brooklyn and I  
[have to move].

Q: Originally (inaudible) on Mercer Street?

M: Near the church, around the corner (inaudible) [yeah, yeah,  
yeah] --

Q: Oh, all right. Maybe that was the first -- maybe that was  
the first residence and then they moved to [South Orange]  
Avenue.

\_\_: And then [the Bear] (inaudible) is there, too, on [Mercer]  
Street. It was Bear (inaudible) on Mercer Street.

Q: Yeah, a little (inaudible)

\_\_: You remember, Tom? (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: Maybe [the Greeks did not use them].

\_\_\_: (inaudible) [could be].

Q: Maybe the Greeks (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

\_\_\_: Mercer Street is the side street next to St. Nicholas.

Q: [Oh, good, so yeah -- well, good] -- at the corner was St. Nicholas?

\_\_\_: [Well, at] Mercer Street, okay.

M: Yeah, that's fine.

F: All Greek people lived on that street.

M: Oh yeah. (inaudible)

Q: Okay, so --

F: (inaudible)

\_\_\_: (inaudible)

Q: Oh, all right.

\_\_\_: [About the] --

Q: So you moved from Mercer to (inaudible) and then to West Market Street. Well, what did (inaudible) you said the restaurant business. Where were the restaurants located in Newark?

M: In Newark?

Q: Do you remember?

M: Well one --

Q: [Broad] Street or were they close to you on West Market --

\_\_\_: Market Street?

M: On West Market [one was].

Q: One was on West Market Street?

\_\_\_: [Wilfork] Street? (inaudible) Street? [Kaddon] Street?

M: [It wasn't a main street, a main] --

\_\_\_: [Fairtooth] Avenue?

F: [Now, in fact, it was right around there] --

M: Fairtooth Avenue (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: -- maybe Broad Street, Market Street --

M: Market Street.

Q: Market Street.

M: Market Street.

Q: All right.

\_\_\_: The [main street].

M: [Well, you know] -- main street there (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

\_\_\_: Market Street is the main street [connected to] West Market Street.

M: (inaudible) [that's right] (inaudible)

\_\_\_: Market Street.

Q: And when did you start working with your father? Did you -- did they -- did your brother work in the restaurant, [the Ember]?

M: [There was a person worked there -- working] (inaudible) [restaurant, and then he] opened up the [other one] in Passaic.

Q: Right, okay. First they opened up in Newark, and then in Passaic.

M: Yeah. And then they went -- my father started -- [when they already had the] (inaudible) [that space was empty lots].

Q: [The restaurant] in Newark or in Passaic? (inaudible) Patterson?

M: Yeah.

Q: [And outside] Patterson?

M: Yeah. (inaudible)

F: (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

\_\_\_: That's all right, that's okay.

Q: -- [you know, whatever], you know, this is (overlapping dialogue, inaudible) [history] --

\_\_\_: That's good.

Q: -- so whatever you want to say.

M: So (inaudible) [my father started in the] restaurant business, and so he [had fine wine and he went out and] --

Q: [Good, and one in] Passaic.

M: And --

Q: Then he opened the one in Passaic, all right. And when did you start working in the restaurant? Did you work in the restaurant?

M: I worked in the restaurant.

Q: Which one? The one in Newark or Passaic?

M: Both of them.

Q: Both of them.

M: Both of them.

Q: So the family -- the whole family was in the restaurant.

M: [That's right].

Q: All right, fine. When did you -- to what Greek-American organizations did [you] belong? [Maybe] --

M: I don't think [we] belonged to any.

Q: To any.

M: Nope.

Q: Did you belong to any American organizations in those years?

M: No.

Q: When did you join the church? And which church did you join?

M: My father was (overlapping dialogue, inaudible) [he used to put up] churches.

F: (inaudible) [had one in] Newark and one in Patterson.

M: [Oh yeah].

F: And that's what he was doing.

Q: Oh, he was putting up churches. [Oh wow. All right] (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

F: -- [organizing church] (inaudible)

Q: All right.

F: [So, yeah. When you write your book] -- you worked in Brooklyn, you stayed in Brooklyn.

M: Yeah, I stayed in Brooklyn and, like I said, yeah, my family [would move in right next] to the store (inaudible)

F: [Well, yeah, that's right]. And then?

M: And then (inaudible) [when I went over to] (inaudible)

Q: Yeah?

M: -- she was sitting outside [the shop] --

Q: Oh!

M: [And she -- I was -- she] (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)  
remember? (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: Yeah?

M: Remember when she was sitting [out in front]?

Q: In front one of what? In front of --

M: Well, the store.

Q: In front of your father's store?

M: Yeah.

F: Yeah.

\_\_: [That we first saw? That we first saw?] Bertha?

F: And right there, that (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: That's your wife?

M: That's your wife.

Q: (inaudible)

M: [No].

Q: (inaudible)

M: [Yes]. (inaudible) She's your wife.

F: [He said that. He actually said that].

\_\_: That was love at first sight.

Q: How old were you, Tommy, at that time?



M: (inaudible)

F: [No, 29].

M: 29.

Q: And how old was Bertha? Excuse me, Tom.

F: Yeah, that's all right. I was 21.

(inaudible)

Q: Go on, go on. [I'll let you tell] (inaudible) and you decided to stay in Newark?

M: (inaudible)

Q: All right, and (inaudible)

F: [Your new outfit] (laughter; inaudible)

Q: Cute. When did you ask her out, [then]?

F: The first time.

Q: [Had you] (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

M: -- [it was in -- there was a] (inaudible) dance --

F: Yeah -- [no, I know the first time] he took me out was when he -- I was going to [a daughter's meeting] (inaudible) [and he wanted to walk me from the] daughter's meeting [all the way down] Washington Street. So he wanted to walk me. (inaudible) I met him on the corner. And then he came (inaudible) [my mother] (inaudible)

M: (inaudible) [little so-and-so].

Q: Oh, you had to marry Bertha. (laughter)

F: [When I came] home that night (inaudible) [you know what, Bertha] (inaudible)

Q: But she [always looked good]? (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

F: [She's going to] (inaudible) so she [crosses the street, says] (inaudible) when I came home that night, she says (inaudible) [says to me] (inaudible)

M: [We saw you come out] (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

F: And then we were [at] (inaudible) [and we'd go out], you know. So I asked him to come, and sure enough he came. And that [night did it. That's when he proposed to me].

Q: Oh, how sweet. [Isn't that something]? Let me go back so that we can get (inaudible)

M: (inaudible)

Q: No, seriously, and then we can move from there. Bertha, when did your family come -- were you born in Greece or were you born in New York?

F: I was born here.

Q: You were born here. When did they come -- where did --

F: They came from (inaudible) you know? And my father married my mother in 1914 (inaudible) [love affair], so he brought her here. But my father [fought the] (inaudible) [War]. They had quite a few (inaudible) you know? So anyway, they got married in Greece, [so they] came here (inaudible) so the first thing he's doing [is] moved with -- [well, they start with their father] and he went and he bought [a leather factory]. That's where all the Greeks worked.

Q: They came to Newark?

F: Right.

Q: They came directly to Newark. Where [would they] land? In New York and then across to Newark?

F: Yes, yes.

Q: And they'd go to Ellis Island or not at that time?

F: Yeah, I think they did go. They did go to Ellis Island.

Q: And what year was that again? 1914?

F: 1914.

Q: And your mother [was from Kaspanya] also? From (inaudible)

F: Yes, yes. And [he was good], so he started working at the leather factory on (inaudible) Avenue, and take the bus every day to go [process] -- or to go -- and sometimes they used to walk if they didn't have the money (inaudible) and

then finally (inaudible) and he opened the first food market on [McAdams] Street.

Q: And what year was that?

F: 1924. And after there, he went to (inaudible)

\_\_: [And most of them were food markets] --

F: Right.

\_\_: -- do you remember the name of the first food market?

F: (inaudible) and then we moved [up to a] bigger place on [230 Garden] Street there (inaudible) [markets].

\_\_: Were they always called [the Fair Mart] (inaudible)

F: I think they were always [called] (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: Well, we can find out [in the old directory].

\_\_: Okay.

F: Yeah. (inaudible) [we took all the] (inaudible) [row and] (inaudible) too.

\_\_: Yeah.

Q: All the businesses were [listed] and the owners were listed in there. So maybe we can find that in the directory -- [about that].

\_\_\_: What year did he open up the Fair Mart Food Market [on, of course], Market Street?

F: [On which] Market Street? (inaudible) [We had] (inaudible) used to be.

\_\_\_: Okay.

F: And we moved back there, [which was] the building next door.

\_\_\_: Okay.

F: We're down here how many years? We're down here 31, 32 years.

\_\_\_: Okay.

Q: Now did you live in there at the time or --

F: (inaudible)

Q: All right. Where?

F: [Summit Place, near the College of Engineering] (inaudible) we lived -- we were -- I was born (inaudible) street and my brother -- my two brothers were born on Summit Place, [that's just] -- the street [out here]. And then we moved to (inaudible) then we moved to (inaudible) [so -- but] -- (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: -- why did your parents come to the United States?

F: Well, to better themselves, you know (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: Yeah, exactly.

F: [Like the] (inaudible) [you know]? And [this is it].

Q: And when did you get married?

F: 1938.

Q: 1938. And when did -- and Tom, when did you go to -- did you go to work for her father? Did you have your own business at the time or [what was the working] --

F: Yeah, my father got sick six months later, and Tommy took over -- after we got married, six months. In six months, we lost both of our fathers. And, yeah, so he took over the store and that was it.

Q: And how long did (inaudible)

F: 25 years. (inaudible) [going out of] business.

Q: Yeah?

F: [And] (inaudible) and then we came down (inaudible)

Q: Now let's go back to the [Greeks coming into the] -- in that area. [What stories can you] tell us about [the church] -- when did you join the church? Did you belong to St. Nicholas?

F: It was right from the start. My father was very active [into] -- you know.

Q: And when did you join? Do you remember?

F: Oh, when he first came from Greece. He (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: -- Nicholas?

F: Yeah. He was involved with the one on (inaudible) street.

Q: But it was on [Academy] Street, the old one. And then the -- then they moved to [Holland] Street.

F: Yes.

Q: All right.

F: [1940] moved to [High] Street.

Q: Okay. Who were the -- you both -- did you both work in the store?

F: What do you mean -- after my father died?

Q: Right, yes.

M: Yeah.

F: Yes, yeah. Yeah, we both --

Q: Did you work in the store before your father died?

F: Oh yes. After school (inaudible)

Q: Did you go to school in Newark?

F: Yeah.

Q: Where'd you go to --

F: I went to Central [High School] (inaudible) [first, up to] sixth grade, then Central. Central Avenue School, and then the high school.

Q: All right.

F: That was a beautiful building, [that high school].

Q: [Right. Okay] (inaudible) and you had -- you were involved in hiring people in the Greek community, right? And helping --

F: In the store.

Q: -- in the store.

F: Yeah.

Q: How many -- do you remember some of the names of the people (inaudible)

F: Yeah, sure.

M: Sure. (overlapping dialogue, inaudible) [well there were] so many, I --

Q: Yeah.

F: [No] (overlapping dialogue, inaudible) [Dev Spitakas] (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

—: They -- [all the names you can], you know.

F: Yeah.



\_\_\_: [Pete Ginakis]?

F: [He and] (overlapping dialogue, inaudible) and [Pete Krulis], he passed away --

M: Right.

F: [Paul Girgalis], you remember Paul? And [Pete Marcus] and (inaudible) [Thomas] -- what was the name? [Pete Thomas]?

\_\_\_: [Pete] Thomas.

F: Pete Thomas. Yeah.

\_\_\_: Tom Marcus.

F: Right. Tom Marcus -- yeah, Tommy Marcus, too. And the girls were -- what was her name? What was that -- what was her name? (pause)

Q: (inaudible)

\_\_\_: It'll come to you.

Q: It will come to you.

F: No, it won't come to me.

Q: Any others [further back]?

F: Further back? No, they weren't -- no. Further back --

Q: Okay.

F: (inaudible) [but he passed away] (inaudible)

Q: (inaudible) [back to all] these young people [who were sort of coming in the area] --

F: Yeah.

Q: -- [right? So] -- can you tell us some experiences that you had with the church, with the community in general. Give us a flavor what the Greek-American community was like in that area.

F: Well, what we used to do -- we all used to walk [on -- the summer], we all used to walk to church together, right? As far --

M: [Right] (inaudible)

F: -- [and we all walked -- come together -- we'd -- all we did] was walk, you know? And -- which we enjoyed because on our way to church, we were able to meet our parishioners and --

Q: And your friends --

F: -- and friends --

Q: -- and your family --

F: Right, right, right, yeah. [So -- I went to Greek school] (inaudible) we were active in the church as far as the youth organizations and --

Q: Well, tell me about the youth organizations. (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

F: Well, we were a nice group, especially the choir. [It was good -- go to] different churches to sing, [and even Long Island, and] (inaudible) and --

Q: How'd you get there?

F: By train. And Mr. [Adams would put up the] (inaudible) [plus expenses, of course. We always did] really enjoy [these performances] (inaudible)

Q: [And you would call it a benefit party and] (inaudible)

F: [Yeah].

Q: [How lovely].

F: Yes.

Q: And what other organizations were there?

F: Well, as we went on we had the [PTO], we had the -- our first [festival day, this] tremendous [gala in the] basement of the church --

Q: (inaudible)

F: [When did -- let's see] (overlapping dialogue, inaudible) forty some-odd years. Maybe [now it's] thirty some-odd years ago, because see, he gave so much stuff towards (overlapping dialogue, inaudible)

Q: Oh, all right. [I remember that].

F: And I was on the committee with [Dot Gellis]. Remember Dot Gellis? She was married to George Gellis. She was a [sculptor's girl].

Q: Yes, yes, yes. All right. [Sure].

F: We [ran it with] (inaudible)

Q: But I want to go further back than that.

F: Yeah.

Q: I want to go to the time when [you] (inaudible) time (inaudible) [Market Street or Nelson Street] and some of the things that you did at the organizations that -- the Greek organizations that you belonged to that had picnics [and, you know], (inaudible) the society. How did you [form] those organizations?

F: Well, our parents came from that [part of the] country and they --

Q: [So they] --

F: -- got together and said, well, let's form this [sort of] (inaudible) [and he says, well, okay].

Q: (inaudible) [did you already] (inaudible)

F: Yeah. And anytime they [got the buses was at Powderhouse Square], right? It was (inaudible)

Q: ['Cause these are the things] that we want to know.

F: Yeah.

Q: Do you remember some other people within the Greek community that lived in that area and (inaudible)

F: And not only that -- do you know what we used to do on Sunday? [Doctor -- do you remember Doctor Paltros]? Yeah, his father was in the vegetable business. And he had a truck, and we used to all pile in (inaudible) up to (inaudible) 'cause, you know, Eagle Rock. And we used to -- [happy day], we all were in that truck, we used to sing and dance -- the families, we'd get together. (overlapping dialogue, inaudible) [that's where we used to] go --

M: [To answer your question] about this picnic, [we'd] (inaudible) picnic. And it was held -- where? And every year, was it held --

F: Every year it was held at [Petrello's Grove] and that was in [Kenilworth].

M: In Kenilworth.

F: Right.

Q: And what kind of (inaudible)

F: [In a small town, in a] --

Q: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. That's what we want. We want a picture [of the flavor] --

**End - Tom & Bertha Manos**